

Mid-East Prophecy Update – August 14th, 2011

- Every week, since back in 2006, we have set aside a few minutes on Sunday mornings so as to devote some time to studying Bible prophecy.
- The reason that we do this is because the Bible predicts certain specific events that will take place in the last days before the Lord returns.
- We believe that what's happening in the world today is a fulfillment of those Bible Prophecies, and that the rapture could happen at any time.

- We look primarily at events in the Middle East, specifically related to Israel because, as it's been said; "Israel is God's prophetic clock."

- Two weeks ago, we began a mini-series of sorts on why the rapture of the church of Jesus Christ must happen before the seven year tribulation.
- Today will be part two, in our study of the pre-tribulation rapture, and why it's absolutely vital that we know why we believe, what we believe.
- The "seven" reasons "why" the rapture of the church of Jesus Christ has to happen before the "seven" year tribulation begins are as follows:

REVELATION TO US

AFFECT UPON US

PURITY OF US

TRUMPETS FOR US

UNIFORMITY WITH US

RESPONSIBILITY ON US

ENCOURAGEMENT FROM US

- Today we'll see the second reason in our seven letter acronym. The rapture must happen before the tribulation because of the affect upon us.

Matthew 24:36-44 NIV (44) "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. (37) As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. (38) For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; (39) and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. (40) Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. (41) Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. (42) "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. (43) But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. (44) So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. (45) "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? (46) It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. (47) I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. (48) But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,' (49) and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. (50) The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. (51) He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

1. The pre-tribulation rapture affects me by causing me to be watching, whereas a mid or post tribulation rapture I can calculate the day and hour.
- If you place the rapture anywhere but at the beginning of the seven year tribulation, then it won't be unexpected as a thief in the night would be.
- Also, it would lose the "affect," like when in Noah's day, "they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them away."

- When Jesus says that two will be working and one will be taken while the other is left, He's describing a world that is doing "business as usual."
- The rapture has to happen before the seven year tribulation otherwise, Jesus isn't making any sense giving this warning about being left behind.
- The reason there will be those left behind is because they're not expecting it, which is why they're eating, drinking, and planning their weddings.

2. The pre-tribulation rapture affects me by causing me to be faithful, whereas a mid or post tribulation rapture there's no hurry nor is there worry.
- If you place the rapture anywhere but at the beginning of the seven year tribulation, you delay His coming, and it will affect how you live your life.
- Question; how many times have you heard someone say that they're just going party on up to the last minute, then they'll get right with God?

- That's the affect a mid or post tribulation will have on people in that it affects how they spend their time because they think they still have time.
- The affect on the wicked servant is that of the lukewarm church. Carnality and brutality have gutted out the urgency of the priority of eternity.
- Conversely, the affect on the faithful servant is that he wisely lived his life with both an expectancy and an urgency for when his Master returned.

3. The pre-tribulation rapture affects me by causing me to long for His appearing, whereas a mid or post tribulation rapture makes it too long.
- If you place the rapture anywhere but at the beginning of the seven year tribulation, then certain prophecies must be fulfilled before He comes.
- This affects the way I view Bible prophecy because now, I'm looking for the Anti-Christ instead of longing for the appearing of Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 4:8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day-and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. NIV

- If there's no pre-tribulation rapture, the affect it will have upon me is that now I won't be longing, because it will be longer, before He appears.
- It will affect how I see certain things that are beginning to happen in the world, because I'm viewing those prophecies through a different lens.
- By way of example, knowing the rapture has to happen before the seven year tribulation affects how I view last week's breaking news story.

According to one news source; we're one step closer to embedding computer chips into people with a new technological breakthrough. A team of researchers revealed a translucent, flexible circuit, a sort of electronic skin that you can apply to your own skin just like a temporary tattoo. And once the device is activated, it can monitor your heartbeat, the flexing of your muscles, your brainwaves. It can even detect speech. And outfitted with a wireless transmitter, it could send all that data straight to your computer or maybe even to your doctor, or who knows, the limits of the imagination of things we might be able to do with this. ... the possibilities are limitless.